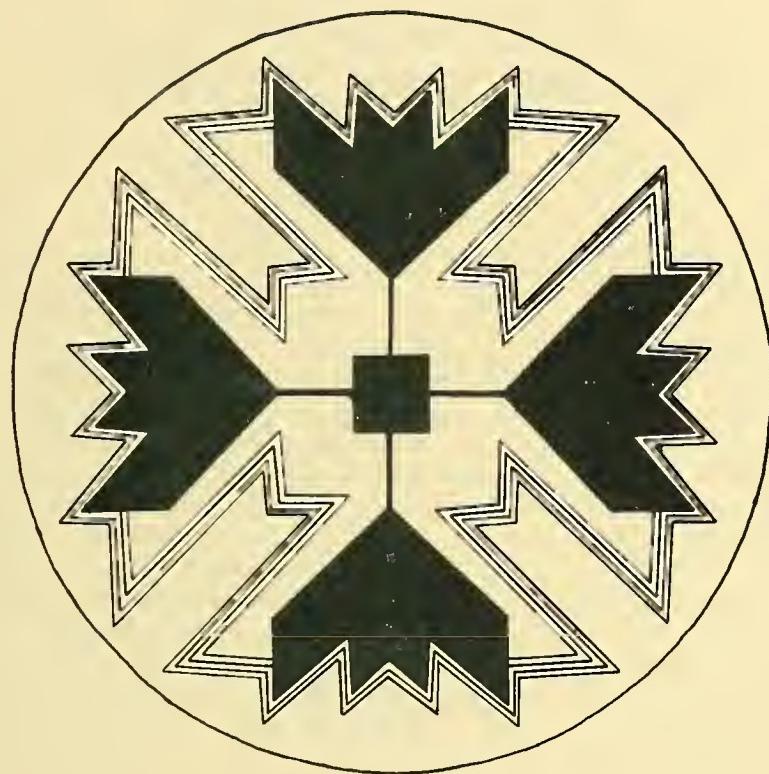


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INDIANS AT • WORK



AUGUST 15, 1936

A NEWS SHEET FOR INDIANS
AND THE INDIAN SERVICE

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C.



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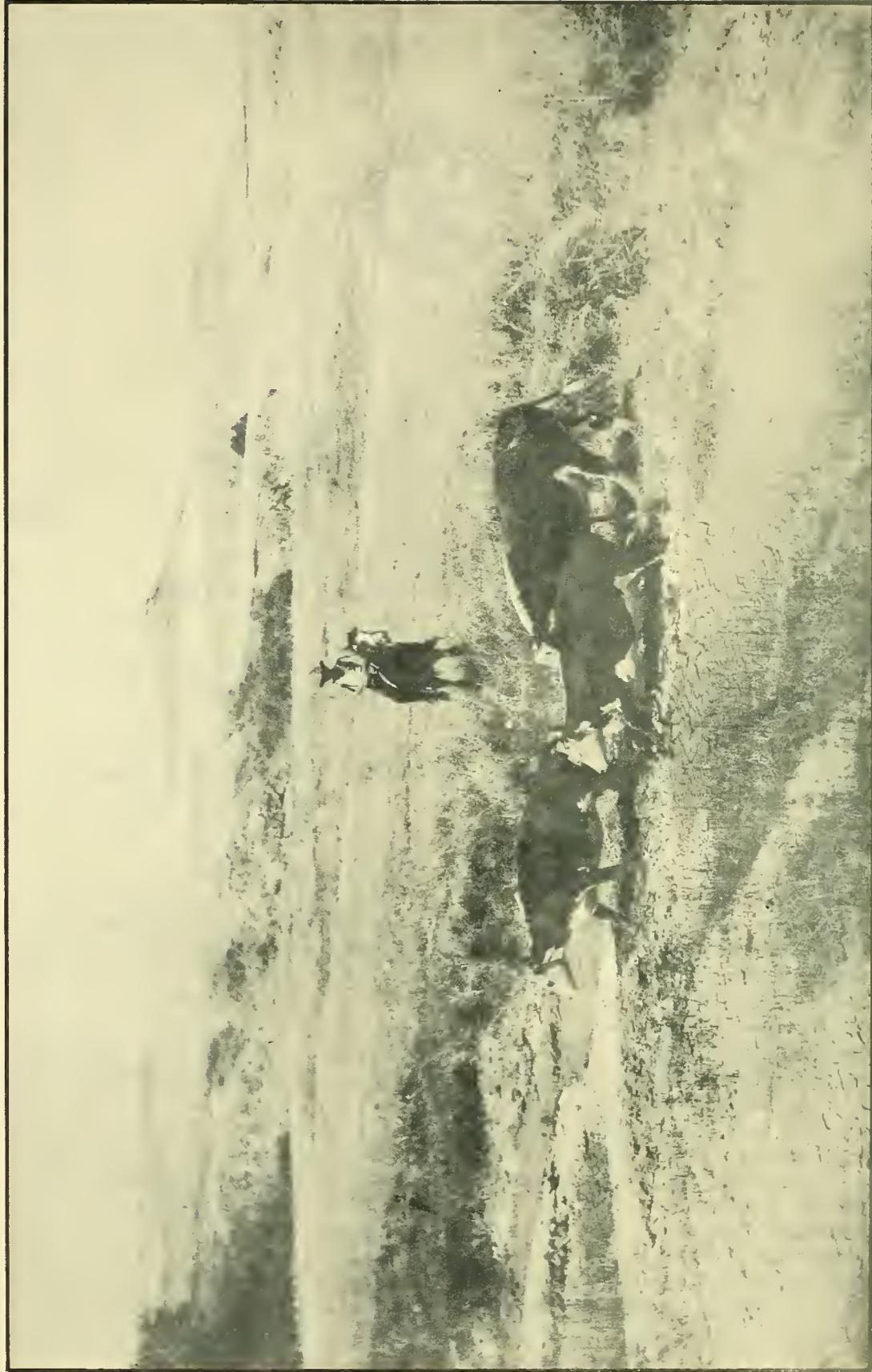
CONTENTS OF THE ISSUE OF AUGUST 15, 1936

Volume 1V

Number 1

	Page
Editorial	John Collier 1
Cover Design	4
Drought Relief For Indians Assured	5
The Drought	Frederick H. Walton 6
A Word About "Rehabilitation" And Houses	John Herrick 9
Comments On Rehabilitation	11
New Wells For Drought Stricken Areas	11
Rehabilitation Homes At Mescalero, New Mexico..	Ernest R. McCray 12
Rehabilitation at Chilocco School	Walter F. Gray 15
Drought in South Dakota	Thomas R. Henry 18
To Superintendents, Extension Workers And Indian Cattle Owners	A. C. Cooley 21
Rehabilitation Community Project at Cheyenne and Arapaho Agency.....	Charles H. Berry 24
Typical Homes Showing Need of Rehabilitation	26
Where Rehabilitation Has Already Begun	27
Our New Indian Homes	E. J. Diehl 28
Indian Reorganization News	29
Before and After Rehabilitation At Five Tribes	30
Before and After Rehabilitation	31
Smoke Cloud From Forest Fire	32
Forest Fire	33
Anthropological Activities	33
E. C. W. On Rocky Boy's Reservation, Montana ..	Freal H. McBride,..... 34
Drought in Montana	Gerard Beeckman 39
An Old-Timer Speaks	41
Three Men Are Killed	43
The Southwest Indians Build Bridges	L. P. Towle 44
True Indian Story of the Assiniboine Tribe	Otto J. Cantrell 46
From I.E.C.W. Reports	48

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Resettlement Administration Photograph By Rothstein

• INDIANS • AT • WORK •

A News Sheet for Indians
and the Indian Service

VOLUME IV -- AUGUST 15, 1936 -- NUMBER 1

Reports received recently indicate that the present drought in that vast region of the Middle West known as the Great Plains is by far more serious and of more import nationally than the drought of 1934. Thousands of families are impoverished as the result of this drought and inevitably much suffering and hardship will ensue before adequate measures to relieve the situation can be taken. Coming as it has upon some ten years of below-normal rainfall, there was no reserve moisture in the ground upon which plant life could draw. The effect is felt by both Indians and whites alike, with perhaps more real suffering among the whites who generally depend upon cultivated crops to a greater extent than do the Indians. In addition to the immediate discomforts occasioned by hunger and the intense heat, the effect upon the health of the population in the affected area may be serious unless adequate precautions are taken.

The problem presented is the result of overdevelopment for agricultural purposes of an area not suited to agriculture. Hundreds of thousands of acres of good grasslands have been plowed and planted to wheat and other annual crops. Drainage projects have been con-

structed to increase the area available for cultivation. Most of the area should never have been plowed but should have been permitted to remain in grass and native vegetation. Marshlands and ponds should not have been disturbed.

It is more and more apparent that the only possible solution of the problem is a long-range program involving the ultimate return of large areas of cultivated land to pasture crops and the shifting of a part of the present white population. It will take many years to repair the damage done even though a definite and comprehensive program is adopted and actively carried through. Even though we know the cause and are reasonably certain as to the best method of effecting a cure, we cannot expect to correct the present conditions except by the adoption and carrying through of a courageous program. The time in which the work must be done in order to be effective is limited. Much delay now would result in further damage, which would jeopardize the chance of ultimate success, or at least result in much additional cost in money and effort before a permanent cure could be effected.

While it will obviously be necessary and is entirely possible as part of a long-range program, to move a large percentage of the white population within the area, establishing them preferably on irrigated land, it is not necessary nor desirable to consider moving any Indians. The Indians, if provided with reasonable opportunity for becoming self-supporting, will be able not only to remain in the area but will be able to assist materially in correct-

ing the damage done through the past policy of overdevelopment. Providing the Indians of the area with reasonable opportunities to work out their own economic salvation, is therefore, one of the most important phases of the whole program. President Roosevelt has recently appointed a committee to study this situation and this committee will take into account the needs of the Indians within the drought area.

The important lesson to be learned by the Indians and all of us from this situation is that the program for proper land utilization must be expedited in every way possible in order not only to correct the damage already done to Indian-owned lands but to prevent further damage. This program now under way on most of the reservations in the drought area includes the working out of definite plans for the consolidation of Indian land holdings in order to permit the establishment of economic land units; the acquisition of additional land, particularly range lands, in order to provide sufficient pasture areas; the development of water supplies for domestic and stock use; the conservation of vegetative cover by guarding against overgrazing; the revegetation of denuded areas and the development of all feasible irrigation projects for raising forage and subsistence. The Office is doing and will continue to do all in its power to further this program. The speed with which it can be prosecuted will depend upon the amount of funds that are made available.

The Indians of each reservation can help materially in speeding up the program; in fact without their cooperation, both

collectively and individually, the program will not only be retarded but in fact cannot be successfully carried out. Indian help is particularly necessary in working out plans for the consolidation of land holdings. This phase of the program must be speeded up. Dovetailed into the consolidation of the present land holdings is the land acquisition program which is designed to assist in blocking out areas to permit the establishment of economic farm and range units. The development of additional water for stock and domestic use and for irrigation of small subsistence garden tracts is also of immediate importance. Efforts are being made to secure additional funds with which to hasten this development. After all, however, the best results will be achieved with the least delay if all phases of the program move along together.

The Office of Indian Affairs is doing and must continue to do everything in its power to bring about better conditions as rapidly as possible for the Indians of the Great Plains states.

A. L. Wathen

Director of Irrigation

COVER DESIGN

The design which appears on the cover page of this issue, was submitted for use in INDIANS AT WORK by Miss Rose Pahdocony, a Comanche Indian, who is a student at Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas.

DROUGHT RELIEF FOR INDIANS ASSURED

During Mr. Tugwell's recent visit to the drought stricken areas, a conference was held between him and the superintendents of the various drought stricken Indian agencies. They presented to him the facts which are discussed in the following pages of this magazine. After a brief but penetrating survey of the situation, Mr. Tugwell has sent the following telegram to the regional directors of those areas having drought stricken populations:

"To Regional Directors:

Culminating recent negotiations with the Indian Service, the Resettlement Administration has agreed to open all phases of the drought program to Indians on an identical basis with whites. Subsistence grants may be made to the Indians as per provisions of administration order. Crop loans may be made as per provisions of administration order number 166 - revision 1. Cooperation of our field personnel with the officials of Indian reservations in determining Indian needs will be necessary. Such officials should be provided with our application forms and blanks and be instructed as to their use. We must reserve the right to pass finally upon the eligibility of individual cases, however, in order to make certain that our policy of equal treatment is strictly carried out..."

(Signed) Rexford G. Tugwell

Administrator

THE DROUGHT

By Frederick H. Walton - Field Supervisor of Rehabilitation

The present water conditions in the drought area are a public calamity. Pestilence and epidemics threaten as the result of the human consumption of stagnant waters. Rivers and streams are polluted by live stock which travels miles for such water. And where families receive one barrel of water per family per week (50 gallons), as actually is happening, this water must perforce become polluted during the week. Intestinal disease is already rife in some sections. The only solution is by boiling the water, which is a terrible hardship where no natural fuel exists and where even the trees have died off because the tap roots cannot reach water.

It is not the visible drought which is the most disastrous, but the invisible. It is not merely lack of moisture above the ground, but lack of moisture below the ground (resulting, of course, from years of subnormal precipitation) which now promises to turn the Great Plains into a desert. Snowfalls during the winter months have not raised the water tables. Crops must now depend entirely on rain or surface moisture.

Contributing Cause

A mania of drainage marked land improvement projects, planned and executed during the last 25 years. The necessity now is to reverse this land improvement objective in the drought area. Abolishment of ponds, lakes, water pockets, swamps, winding streams, are some of the engineering accomplishments which together with statewide draining, road grading (placing of culverts) have destroyed nature's means of arresting drainage and storing the excess and overflow in the underground or subsoil water tables.

Alfalfa and other pastures were able to prosper for a time because their root systems could tap the subsoil irrigation. But this no longer exists. A two inch rain will drain off the land literally in a few hours. The water from melting snows courses down the dry runs and streambeds, straightened and cleared for this very purpose.

Remedies

The remedy is to restore all natural water conservation systems at once and impound or hold the water on the land, improving upon natural conditions wherever possible. The Dakotas and Eastern Montana have a topography of tablelands of varied extent, clearly defined in the ledges or buttes. These tablelands are cut by ravines or canyons which drain the elevated land into water courses, which in turn run to the rivers. Dynamite judiciously used to close these canyons and hold the water in order to activate infiltration of melting snow and rainfalls is desirable.

This method of impounding run-off water should be accompanied by a system of works to control the overflow in order to irrigate or subirrigate the widest possible area at the lower levels. These tablelands are seldom used for agriculture or pasturage because the rapid drainage from them does not allow the growth of any vegetation.

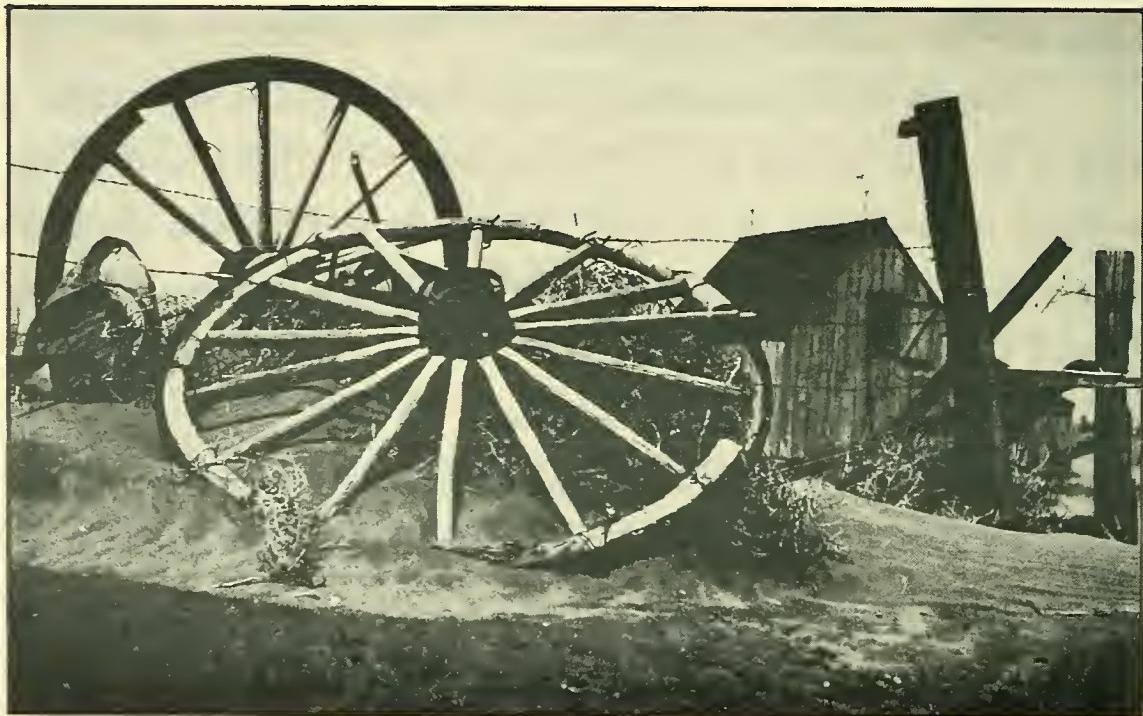
Drainage ditches should be closed.

The system of public roads has crisscrossed the whole area with clearly defined barriers limiting drainage run-off. Every culvert on public roads should be raised, depending upon the fill or grade in order to take advantage of the highway system to impound water.

Small reservoirs or "charcos" should give suitable work projects in all communities. These would hold surface water in ponds and be designed or located where a depth of three to ten feet would conserve the water. I would advocate an excavated pond rather than one created by an earth fill. Such a system of reservoir building would eliminate the need for engineering studies of dam construction, overflow ripraping and other considerations of a technical nature. The system also carried with it the benefit of piercing the surface sod and holding the water for infiltration.

The major problems of irrigation and water impounding must be developed in due course. These remarks are to suggest immediate and quick remedies to help avoid another recurrence of drought next year.

An Abandoned Farm, Cimarron, Oklahoma



Resettlement Administration Photograph by Rothstein

A WORD ABOUT "REHABILITATION" AND HOUSES

By John Herrick

Assistant to the Commissioner

We speak of the work of building houses, barns and community self-help structures, of operating self-help projects like sewing rooms and canning kitchens, of clearing land and digging wells - all of which has been going on during the past few months - as the Indian Rehabilitation program.

In reality, this is a misnomer. For all the work that the Indian Service, and the Indian tribal organizations, and the Indians themselves are doing together constitutes a program of Indian Rehabilitation. Literally defined, to "rehabilitate" means to clothe again, and in this exact sense it describes very well what we are all trying to do. We are trying to clothe the Indian again with the dignity that comes from self-rule and self-support. The Indian Reorganization Act, with its opportunity for the Indians to progress in the direction of self-government, is Rehabilitation. Efforts of the Extension Division of the Indian Service to help the Indians build up their herds and flocks and to learn the technique of irrigated gardening are Rehabilitation. The work of the Indian Service and the Soil Conservation Service to regulate grazing, prevent erosion, and restore worn out soil to fertility is Rehabilitation. The work of our teachers, our doctors, our nurses, our foresters is all Rehabilitation.

So really the so-called Rehabilitation program has been only one of a number of endeavors all tending in the same direction. The Rehabilitation program was undertaken with a four-fold objective: First, to provide work for Indians who were in need of employment and money; second, to provide better houses for as many Indians as could be taken care of with the limited funds at hand; third, to provide buildings in which productive community activities could be undertaken; and lastly, to finance the operation of those productive activities themselves, such as furniture and handicraft shops, canning kitchens, sewing shops and the like.

The work of house construction was directed not only toward the provision of shelter, but it was hoped that it might prove a demonstration of what could be done to build dwellings which would be sound, substantial, pleasingly designed, adequate in accommodation and still be capable of construction at a very minimum cost.

To those unfamiliar with small house design, it seems an easy job to plan such a house. All one has to do, presumably, is put down a few strokes of the pencil on a piece of drawing paper, run off a few blue prints and then set the builders to work hammering two-by-fours, and boards and

shingles into place. In reality, the design of small minimum cost houses is an extremely technical matter. It was a field long neglected by the architectural profession for the very good reason that there was no money in it.

As a result, the man who wanted a small house had to take some poorly designed stock plan, or else depend on a local contractor or carpenter to do the best he knew how. But since the advent of the New Deal, with its emphasis on the needs of the family of small means, a new measure of attention has been paid to low cost housing. The former Subsistence Homesteads Division of the Department of the Interior, the Resettlement Administration and the Federal Housing Administration have all spent many thousands of dollars in developing plans and specifications for small houses at low cost. And now the Indian Service has made its contribution, and a contribution which in the opinion of competent authorities, is one of the best so far achieved.

Nor is it our thought that the job has been completed with the actual construction of the houses. We wish to follow up by watching to see how the houses work out. Do they suit their new tenants; do they stand up well; are maintenance costs low; is the pitch of this roof right for some particular climate; is the porch used enough to justify the cost of its construction; is the insulation adequate? We hope sincerely that Indians who live in these houses and the Superintendents and the other Indian Service employees who chance to inspect them, will keep the Washington Office informed, so that our present designs may be further refined and improved.

If I have spoken thus at length about the house construction part of the Rehabilitation program, it is because I happen to be particularly interested in that subject. It is not because the other work done is less important. But certainly decent housing for our Indians is one of their greatest needs. We cannot have health and happiness unless our dwellings are sound and warm and comfortable and clean. We are counting on the Indians who occupy these new houses to do their share by keeping the houses in good repair and by keeping them neat and clean.

May I add just one word to the Superintendents and other Indian Service employees who have taken part in the Rehabilitation program. I am a comparative newcomer in the Indian Service. I had heard before that the men and women of the Indian Service knew through long experience how to get things done on their own responsibility. So I was not surprised, but I was indeed pleased at the way the agency staffs jumped into this emergency program. Employees already overburdened with work, undertook this new task and worked many overtime hours. Everyone concentrated on getting the job done, and as the result of this spirit of loyal energy, the record of the Indian Rehabilitation program is one to which we can all point with satisfaction.

COMMENTS ON REHABILITATION

The pictures contained in this issue of INDIANS AT WORK, in all the strength of their contrasting conditions would hardly be complete without the confirmation of the impressions which have emerged from all the reports, letters and conferences relating to the distribution of this fund. Faint at first, but ever growing and expanding, they are strikingly expressive of hope, confidence in the Government and their fellowmen and above all in themselves. The following quotations exemplify the reports of many superintendents:

"They are agreeably surprised to discover within themselves power which they never dreamed was there."

"They have discovered and are manifesting, a new outlook on life."

"The activity of no other fund has so completely transformed the thought and attitude of my people."

"Under the group formation and leadership developed by means of this fund, it is safe to say that things are definitely looking up at this reservation and hope is replacing despair."

"Cultivation of land never before developed, the better and intensive use of land surrounding their homes, private development of water supply, replacing former indifference - in short, an increase in happiness have resulted from the knowledge and enthusiastic use of this fund allocated to my reservation."

Could we have a stronger and more justified support to our appeal for additional funds to promote and increase the benefits illustrated and affirmed?

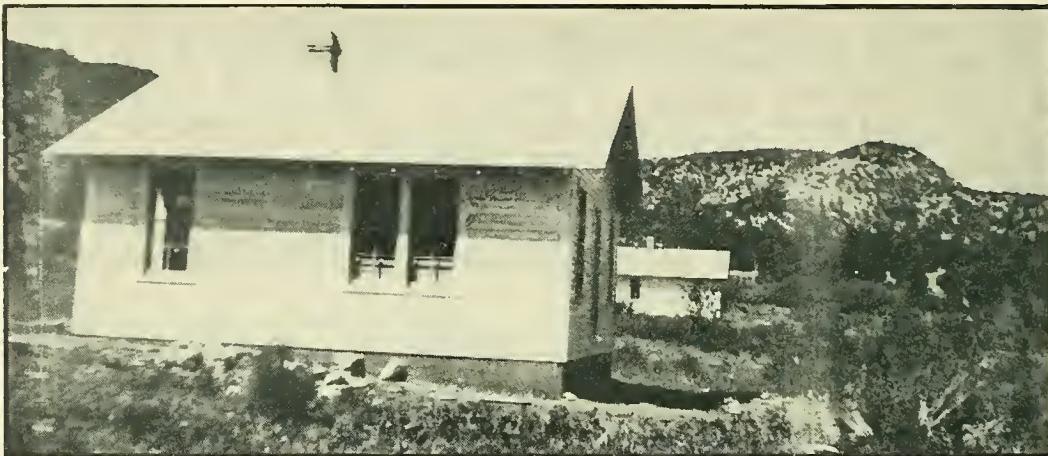
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NEW WELLS FOR DROUGHT STRICKEN AREAS

In connection with the serious water shortage caused by the drought, over two hundred wells have been started throughout the various agencies, besides fifteen hundred to two thousand wells for which sites are now being located. Besides these wells, numerous charcos and reservoirs are being built under Emergency Conservation Work.

REHABILITATION HOMES AT MESCALERO, NEW MEXICO

By Ernest R. McCray, Superintendent



What It Takes To Make The Old Apache People Happy

The Mescalero Apaches have had much unfavorable publicity because of the appearance of their homes, the unsanitary conditions under which they live and what to the casual observer has been a shocking moral condition. The high percentage of tuberculosis and infant mortality which has accounted for their increase being almost nil, has been a matter of concern to the Indian Office and the employees working with these Indians. Many attempts have been made to deal with these problems.

Rehabilitation of the Mescalero Apaches has been undertaken in the different sections of the reservation. Farm assignments were made by Superintendent Carroll and the Apaches were induced to engage in farming. This venture seemed to be the solution of their economic needs. Many of the Apaches plowed, planted and harvested good crops. However, they provided themselves with only temporary homes and gradually withdrew from their farms and gathered at the agency. Here climate and other conditions, to them, seemed more congenial.

Later these Indians were helped to get a start in the sheep industry. Every Indian was given a number of sheep; permits to white stockmen were cancelled and again it was believed that the Mescaleros were on the road to economic independence. To run sheep successfully required constant care and precluded the maintenance of a permanent home. Only a small percentage of the original number to whom sheep were issued have remained in this business. Those have demonstrated their ability as herders and sheepmen. The others have gradually lost, sold or eaten their flocks and today, not more than 30 families receive enough income from their sheep to maintain themselves.

When it was realized that the Apaches were not all sheepmen, cattle was introduced on the reservation. For a number of years the cattle were run as a tribal herd and from the standpoint of increase and income, a success. The Mescaleros assumed no responsibility for the cattle industry. Within the past year, however, a cattle growers' association was formed and the tribal herd was distributed to the individual members of the tribe. A committee was appointed to pass on all applications and a special effort was made to sell these cattle from the tribal herd to such Indians as would agree to furnish their share of work for maintenance of the cattle industry; who would put in crops so that they would be able to produce feed for their saddle horses and furnish their proportionate share of the feed required for feeding cattle during the winter. The purchase of these cattle by individuals from the tribe was on a reimbursable arrangement, whereby twenty-five per cent of the proceeds from the sale of cattle each year would be paid into the tribal fund until their debt is retired.

At the present time there seems to be among the Apaches an interest and enthusiasm regarding the use of the reservation resources, which if encouraged and maintained, will lead to successful use of the reservation. The diversity of interests of the Apaches is wide enough that there is no reason why the reservation should not furnish employment for practically every member of the tribe. Such employment should assure a decent living for everyone.

Sheep, cattle, farming, lumbering - together with extra employment provided by emergency and other activities, offer occupations for all. The problem now is to establish these people permanently in good homes on their farms where they will be able to look after their property and engage in a normal, healthy life.

An allotment of Indian Rehabilitation funds has made it possible for us to make a start in building good permanent homes for these people. We have built 20 homes which include a four room cottage, a hen house and an outside toilet. These are for use of our old people, most of whom are on the ration list, and under ordinary conditions, their complete support would be a drain on the government or the tribe. These homes have been so located that each will have an acre of good garden land under irrigation and if worked by these people, will produce quite a large portion of their living. The old people to whom these homes have been assigned are delighted and are loud in their praises of the government and what is being done for them.

In addition to the 20 homes for old people, we are completing 22 sets of farm buildings which consist of a four room cottage, a good barn, a hen house and toilet. These are built on the farm assignments, most of which are in the Carrizo district. All of the families for whom homes have been built are enthusiastic and anxious to move out onto their farms. Just as soon as the day school, for which money has been appropriated, is built, these people will move out there and remain permanently on their land. It is our plan and hope that funds will be available to continue this building program to the extent that within a year or so, every family on the reservation will be quartered in comfortable, attractive homes.

With the completion of this plan, it is my firm belief that we shall be over the top on the complete rehabilitation of the Mescalero Apaches and from there on it will be a "downhill drag" and nothing should prevent this tribe from attaining a state of complete economic independence.

In connection with this rehabilitation program, several surprising and amusing situations have arisen. I was surprised in talking with a number of Indians with whom I was holding a meeting and discussing a plan for establishing a number of families in the Elk-Silver district. The Elk Spring has a large flow and there are fifty acres of good land immediately adjacent to the spring. The plan was to cut this land into two acre garden tracts and build homes there for 25 families. There would be water for irrigating gardens and water could be piped to the homes; the day school would be built at this location. After some discussion, Solon Sombrero arose and informed me that the plan was not acceptable to the Indians.

He said, "We are not good neighbors. If we live close together there will be trouble. If my rooster flew into my neighbor's pigpen, we would probably have a fight. If some Indian brought whiskey in, we would all get drunk. This would be a kind of a town. If we are to be farmers, we want to have our homes on our land."

I argued that if houses were built on their assignments, they would not have such advantages as running water, and he replied, "We have always carried and hauled water and we would rather have our homes where we want them and take care of the water ourselves." I then mentioned the way the Indians live around the agency. He said, "We just got into the habit of living that way." Later, I found that this opinion was shared by most of the Indians. Many of them told me that they would be glad to move to their farms if they could manage to build decent homes.

When we were completing the homes for the old people, Belle Kazhe, a young woman who is housekeeper at the Whitetail Day School, went through the cottages. With every look she explained how very pretty they were. She finally said, "I almost wish I were an old woman so that I could live in one of these cottages!"

Old Stella La Paz, when she was approached on moving into one of the new homes, stated that she would like to have a new home, but that she would have no place to keep her 12 roosters and 4 hens. She was taken down to the new home and shown that she would have a nice new hen house - then she was perfectly satisfied to look over her cottage. She finally said that all her life she had been told that Apaches could have good homes, and now that she is an old, old woman, she finds that the government does keep its word. Stella, like the other Mescalero Apaches, is now a convert to the theory that there is a Santa Claus!

REHABILITATION AT CHILOCCO SCHOOL

By Walter F. Gray - Head, Agricultural Department



Navy Beans Which Are Being
Grown For Winter Use

For thirty years Indian boys from Oklahoma and surrounding territory have come to Chilocco to learn to farm. Some of these boys have come with the idea of returning to their own land, others have hoped that after the completion of their agricultural courses, they would be able to secure land on which they could farm. Many of these young men have returned to their reservations and have made or found the opportunities necessary to fulfill their plans of becoming

successful farmers. Others have met with discouraging obstacles, the most common being insufficient capital to start a farming enterprise and the inability to lease land upon which they could farm at all. For many years those most interested in the development of agriculture among the Indians have felt that something more must be done for the group of boys who are unable to establish themselves on farms.

The economic depression made the need for financial assistance more acute, and when in 1934 the Indian Office was able to secure \$50,000 from the Subsistence Homestead Division of the National Recovery Act for a resettlement program at Chilocco, both the Washington and Chilocco offices started working at top speed on plans and specifications for fifteen homesteads.

Former students of agriculture from the school who were in need of financial assistance were contacted by Mrs. Elna Smith of the Washington Office and Mr. L. E. Correll, Superintendent of Chilocco. To be eligible for selection, it was required that the applicant be married, that he have three years of practical agriculture from the Chilocco School and that he be in real need of financial help. Of the fifteen men selected, four are graduates of the Chilocco Agricultural High School, one completed the eleventh grade and one the tenth grade; four others have had some high school work and the remainder have had at least three years of vocational agriculture.

The allotment of funds was made during the latter part of December, 1934, and work on the buildings started immediately. All of the construction work was done by the men themselves except for the assistance of one skilled

carpenter and three graduate carpenters from the school. The buildings on each homestead consist of a three or four room house, a barn and granary, a hog house, chicken house and toilet. Wells were dug and equipped with pumps and windmills.

Live stock and equipment for farming includes four horses with two mares in the group, five short horn cows, one Duroc brood sow and fifty hens. Each homestead is furnished with a plow, harrow, lister, lister cultivator, shovel cultivator and one army transport wagon with bed and hay rack. Community-owned equipment consists of grain binders, grain drills, mowers and rakes.

A five acre tract is set aside for each homestead and in addition, approximately 155 acres are leased to each man by the school for the customary share rent. The payment of the subsistence homestead loan is amortized over a period of twenty-seven years. The idea back of this program is that the present occupants, after farming from five to ten years, will be able to sell their equities and establish themselves on farms in other localities, thereby creating an endless chain of opportunity for deserving young men who desire to get a start in agriculture.

Almost a year has passed since these young families have occupied the homesteads and although the past ten months have been the dryest on record for this part of the state, the enterprise has been successful economically. These fifteen men have planted and harvested a total of 740 acres of wheat, 375 acres of oats and have 400 acres of corn and 200 acres of sorghum. Feed crops are in excellent condition from a cultivation point of view. They have also planted fruit and shade trees and grapes. They have fenced their pastures and in some instances their fields. They have also constructed nine miles of road and have spread gravel for hard surfacing over five and one-half miles of it.

The highest yield of oats was made by Elmer Buzzard, who thrashed 826 bushels from 25 acres. James Bean held the record for wheat production, thrashing 694 bushels from 49 acres. While these yields are low for this section of the country, they are exceptionally good for this year considering the adverse weather conditions we have had.

Business and social life center about the homesteaders' clubs. The men's club, of which Fred North is president, meets regularly once a month. Additional meetings are held whenever they are deemed necessary by the men. One of the most advantageous projects of the club is cooperative buying. Such articles as twine and lubricating oil were purchased at a saving although thirty days' credit was necessary. Organizing the thrashing crew and renting thrashing equipment was carried on in a most business-like manner.

The homesteaders' wives have contributed a very important part to the economic and social success of individual units. The wives, unlike the men, are not all former Chilocco students. However, out of the fifteen there are six who are former students and two of them are Chilocco graduates.

The home making work has been carried on in the form of a club organized by the women. The program for the year was planned by the executive committee assisted by a representative from the Home Economics Department of the school. The program has included all phases of home making with special emphasis on gardening, canning, poultry raising, children's clothing and home improvement. The success of the work might be measured by some of the results. In poultry raising the record of Mrs. Charlie Gray shows that she has raised 364 chickens of the 376 she hatched off. She has sold more than enough to pay for the feed she has used, and will have about 50 more to sell for fryers and 150 pullets to keep for winter layers. Mrs. Henry Scott, who has raised chickens for the first time this year has now about 150 fryers of the 200 she hatched.

Early gardens were quite successful. Besides the vegetables that were consumed, each woman had some surplus to can. Three of the women canned enough beans, beets and greens to meet the requirements of their canning budget. One project that was met with much enthusiasm was the canning of wild greens. The women brought their lunches and picked wild greens in the morning. After a picnic lunch they went to the foods laboratory where a demonstration was given in the use of pressure cookers. Nine women came and 84 quarts of greens were canned. Plans are now under way for fall gardens if the drought is broken early enough.

The children's clothing project included the making of three entire layettes, besides small boys' unionalls, little girls' dresses, sleeping garments and sunsuits.

The club sponsored a Christmas party for all the homestead families, and arranged Easter and Fourth of July picnics which were enjoyed very much.



Canning Wild Greens At Chilocco

With the colts, calves, chickens, pigs, forage, grain and garden products produced this year, the financial outlook is brightening, and with at least a smile from the Rain God, the supervising personnel of the school feels that each year will be more successful and interesting.

DROUGHT IN SOUTH DAKOTA

By Thomas R. Henry

Staff Correspondent of the Washington Star



A Bleached Skull Of A Steer
A Result Of The Drought In The South Dakota Badlands

There is a boom on in Sitting Bull's home town with log huts and tents mushrooming as they did in the cow rustling days of the old frontier. It's a starvation boom this time for the dust and grasshopper-filled village which lies around the old white brick fort of the Indian fighters, now filled with busy offices.

Fort Yates now is the center of a vast desert. About the only green thing for miles is the purple-stemmed Russian thistle which grows in lonely patches over the sun-baked wheat fields and grazing lands. It comes with drought. Two years ago its tender sprouts in the early summer were a salvation for white farmers and Indians who mowed them and fed them to their hungry cattle. This year it hugs the ground and is so tough that even the starved grasshoppers, who are like clouds of black-edged gold as they swarm over the fields with fluttering wings, will not eat it. The cows nibble at it and their milk has a bitter taste.

The old town, 80 miles south of Bismark and 40 miles from the nearest railroad station is a haven of refuge. Scattered over the surrounding desert, miles apart, are the lonely hovels of the Indians and the white wheat growers and cattle raisers. For the most part they were built along waterways or near water holes where there was a chance to get drinking water and where box elders and cottonwoods grew to furnish windbreaks during the terrible prairie winters. Now the streams are ribbons of dust. The water holes are patches of white breaking the monotony of the purplish-brown desert and the barren gumbo dunes which make the country like the Dakota Badlands.

There is hardly a bit of water on the desert. The motorist from Bismark to Fort Yates must carry drinking water with him. There is no grass. The hordes of grasshoppers have mowed the dune land like a titanic razor. The country had no spring. Ordinarily, in May the gumbo dunes and the rolling prairie turn a tender green. This year, the old settlers say, there was no vernal interlude of transition between the barrenness of winter and the barrenness of late summer. The wheat never came up. The plowed fields are black patches in the monotony of purplish-brown.

Vegetable gardens, fearlessly watered with buckets so long as there was water in the streams, came up and the irresistible hordes of flying grasshoppers fell upon them. Up to a week or so ago, the trees in the windbreaks were green. Then the grasshoppers started to feast on their leaves and now they are beginning to look like trees in late autumn. Most of the cattle have been sold, some for next to nothing. The few that remain, their ribs beginning to show, are browsing pathetically at the roots of the grasshopper-mown grass.

So there is nothing left to do but flee. Even the grasshoppers can't live in the barren land much longer. The white men are fleeing, loading their families in their battered cars and setting out over the dusty desert. Some of them were well-to-do farmers, with big red barns - the sign of riches in this land - a few years ago. Now they are trying to make their way to the Pacific Coast and the vegetable gardens and fruit orchards, carrying their canning outfits with them. They were seeking work in the fields and orchards, to be paid for in fruits and vegetables which their wives will can on the spot. They hope, in this way, to return to their homes in the desert with enough canned goods to last them over the winter. Next year there may be a spring again, or in the meantime, many of them hope, the Resettlement Administration may have done something about it.

It is different with the Indian. This is his land and he intends to stay here. Fort Yates is the administrative headquarters of the 2,500,000 acre Standing Rock Reservation of the Northern Sioux. There are 3,800 of them. They are in as bad a fix as their white neighbor, but, unlike him, they haven't the gloomy alternative of fleeing to greener pastures. They came here before the white man came and there is every reason to believe that they will be here after he has gone and the ghastly mistake of his coming corrected.

But even the Sioux cannot live in lonely huts scattered over a waterless desert with no other living things but the grasshoppers. Their gardens are black from the sun and the grasshoppers. Their cattle are gone. The Government sent them in some herds last fall, but they didn't have time to become acclimated and many of them perished in one of the hardest winters the land has known for a generation. The drought has forced them to get rid of the rest. Their gardens are ruined - even the communal garden along the Missouri River, which was laboriously furnished with irrigation ditches.

The potatoes and beans promised to be prize winners at the Sioux County Fair, until the grasshoppers came. The only thing for the Indian family to do is to pack up its slender belongings, trudge into Fort Yates, throw up a tent or a log hut and wait for relief. That seems to be the only way of getting on a W. P. A. or Indian Emergency Conservation Work project. And that is the best way to get on relief, which, all agree, is the only means by which the majority of the tribe can be carried through the year.

Just where it is coming from is very indefinite. It's a sad come-down for the proud Sioux, but he may reflect that he is snatching victory out of defeat. The white man is worse off. Custer and the rest drove the grandfathers of this generation of red men hither and yon and finally herded them, helplessly beaten, into a small part of their old prairie empire.

Now come these spirit-smashing two years of drought and promise to undo all the victories of the soldiers and machinations of the lawyers. They promised to drive the white man and leave the Sioux master of his own land once more. He may have a hungry winter, probably not with the Government recognizing its duty of feeding them. Hungry winters have not been rare in the past half century.

Almost every winter, as a matter of fact, a good many Indian families have been in the habit of leaving their homes on the prairies, where there was no firewood and no windbreaks, and setting up tent communities along the wooded banks of the Missouri River. They could stand weather that sometimes went to 20 below zero better in stove-heated tents than in unheated log houses.

So it comes about that Fort Yates is enjoying one of the most paradoxical booms in history - a boom on relief. It's a boom, rather, on anticipated relief. The town, by the way, is pretty much an Indian community - half-blood or full-blood. But probably nowhere on earth do two races live together in such perfect harmony and lack of any distinction. Two cultures have blended.

Strangely enough, the attitude of the Indian just now seems to be one of mingled despair, triumph and sympathy. He doesn't know just how his family will eat this winter, but expects the Government to do something about it. He thinks the drought may result in bringing back the land which his fathers lost partly through skullduggery and partly through Government inefficiency. But he is genuinely sorry for his white neighbor, with whom he has lived on kindly terms for so many years. The Indian - by and large, although there have been some notable exceptions - never has been much of a farmer himself. Perhaps he has been too wise from centuries of inherited experience .

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TO SUPERINTENDENTS, EXTENSION WORKERS AND INDIAN CATTLE OWNERS

By A. C. Cooley

Director of Extension and Industry

The drought situation this year through the Dakotas, Eastern Montana, Nebraska and parts of Oklahoma has developed to be as devastating in these areas as it was in 1934. This means that a large number of Indian live stock will have to be moved out of these areas. After the effort the Indians have made the last few years to reestablish themselves in the live stock industry this setback is most discouraging. In the reduction that will be made it is expected that a number of good breeding cows and heifers will be turned back to the Government as repayment cattle for transfer to other jurisdictions that have sufficient feed to care properly for them.

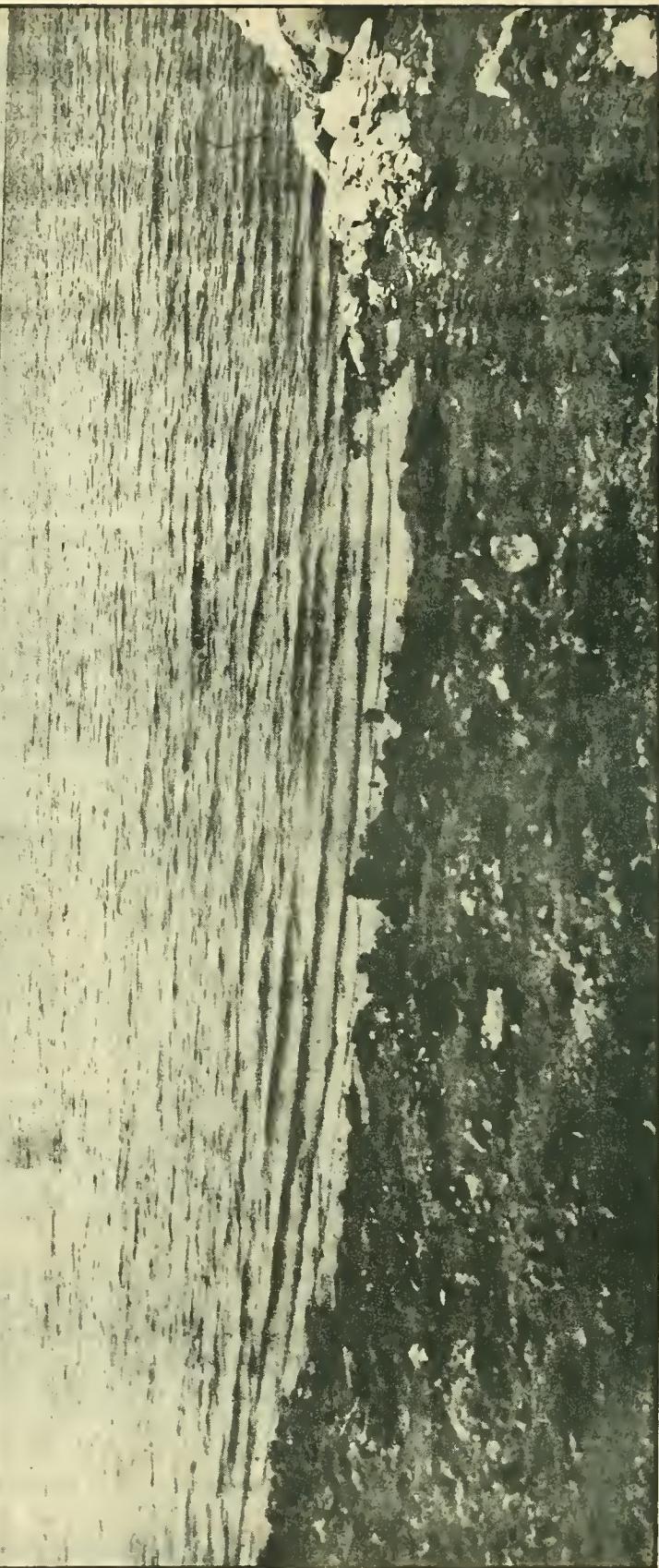
With reference to repayment cattle shipped to other jurisdictions it has come to our attention that some of them were inferior and not desirable for breeding purposes. Such a thing is unfortunate. In selecting breeding stock for repayment to go to other jurisdictions or for issue locally, special care should be taken to see that only animals that are suitable for breeding purposes are accepted. This whole cattle enterprise, if the Indians are to realize the greatest benefit from it, must receive the cooperation and support of everybody. To ship inferior cattle to reservations for breeding stock is putting the Government to a great expense and doing the Indians on the reservations receiving the cattle an injustice. Only cattle should be shipped that the Indians who are making the repayments would be willing to accept themselves.

The live stock program is not a temporary thing but is something that will be carried on, it is hoped, until practically all Indian ranges are stocked to capacity with Indian-owned cattle and until all Indians who are interested and prepared to do so will have been given an opportunity to establish themselves in the live stock industry.

We cannot emphasize too strongly that this is a cooperative enterprise in which everyone must do his part if it is to succeed. If it is not entered into with this spirit many Indians will be deprived of an opportunity to benefit by it.

In conclusion, may I say it is hoped that in spite of the drought the Indians will find some way of keeping enough of their best breeding animals to serve as a foundation herd in order that they may reestablish themselves in the industry. With this in view it is deemed advisable that all cattle not fit for breeding purposes be disposed of immediately, under applicable authority, thus relieving the range and conserving all feed possible for the breeding stock.

MORE OF THESE ARE NEEDED TO COMBAT THE DROUGHT



Pine Ridge Agency Emergency Conservation Work - South Dakota

Pine Ridge Agency Emergency Conservation Work - South Dakota



REHABILITATION COMMUNITY PROJECT AT CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO AGENCY

By Charles H. Berry, Superintendent

A new community is rising up in Southwest Oklahoma - a community which will enable a group of Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians - long landless - to utilize the ground they relinquished years ago through no fault of their own. Each family will receive a new dwelling, a new out-building, new fences, fresh, deep wells, an individual forty acre agricultural tract, three hundred acres of communal agricultural land and a common grazing tract of 1,200 acres.

Some sixty-five miles to the southwest of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Agency office at Concho, lies the old Seger School Reserve, composed of 2,450 acres. This tract was formerly a part of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Reservation, but was purchased from the Indians by the Government at a nominal sum and set aside for school purposes. About three years ago the Seger Boarding School was abandoned.

Indian families possessing little or no land are being established in homes erected out of Rehabilitation funds on this school reserve. Since the closing of the boarding school, the Cheyennes and Arapahoes have from time to time, earnestly requested that the land of the reserve in some manner be made available for the use of landless members of their tribes. We had never been able to bring this about until receipt of our allotment of Rehabilitation funds. Our Indians, of course, are delighted with the opportunity afforded us to bring about the thing which they have long hoped for - the utilization of this Government-owned land by members of the tribes which originally owned it and sold it to the Government for a small fraction of what the land is now worth.

Many applications are being filed by individual Indians who desire an opportunity to occupy one of these homes and to avail themselves of all the other benefits made possible through this allotment for the families selected for settlement. It is my belief that nothing could be done which would be more productive in bringing about self-support on the part of these indigent Indian families than the plan now being worked out to establish them on this Government-owned land.

Since the beginning of this project, practically all of the work has been done by our Cheyennes and Arapahoes. Some of these will be among those chosen to occupy the homes which they are helping to erect. This, of course, enhances the interest of the workman in his work. Upon my visits to the reserve during the time of construction of these buildings, many an Indian workman has earnestly requested that he be allowed to occupy the individual house which he has seen develop under his hands.

This project, now nearing completion, consists of the erection of homes with complete sets of out-buildings for each home, the building of fences, drilling of wells and the erection of two large cattle sheds to be used in common by Indians established on this reserve. Each family settled here will have the individual use of a forty acre tract of land on which its buildings are located. In addition to the use of this forty acre tract, each Indian family will have its share of approximately 300 acres of good bottom agricultural land which will be farmed in common by all Indians settled on the reserve for the growing of larger field crops such as alfalfa and small grain, including wheat, oats, barley and so forth. A common grazing tract also will be used by the Indians settled on the reserve, totalling approximately 1200 acres.

From year to year a rapidly growing interest in farming and stock raising on the part of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians has been observed. The Rehabilitation project will meet one of the greatest needs of the jurisdiction in that it will afford an outlet to this interest for the families which are resettling on the reserve. A large irrigation project has been proposed on Cobb Creek, just to the north of the reserve, and if this project is completed within the next year or two as anticipated, it will be possible to irrigate a considerable acreage of the splendid bottom land which is being assigned to the Indians who are established here. This elimination of the hazards of dry farming will give these Indians an advantage over most of their neighbors. Deep wells have been drilled in the 1200 acres of common pasture land and two large cattle sheds are being erected on this tract as a part of the Rehabilitation project. It will thus be possible for the Indian families located here to carry on an unusually successful live stock program.

It is proposed, under provisions of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act, to organize some form of cooperative and colonization plan to enable the Indians established on the reserve to avail themselves of the revolving fund and in other ways work cooperatively to each others' best interest. The old Seger plant will probably be renovated and remodelled and used as a real community center for the Indians settled here and other Indian families of the community. Thus, every effort will be put forth to develop initiative and the spirit of self-reliance on the part of these families who will be in an economic position to become rapidly self-supporting.

Therefore, from the above considerations, it is readily apparent that this \$32,000 of Rehabilitation money in the immediate future will furnish these indigent Indian families with necessities and opportunities heretofore unobtainable from any other source. But of even greater and more lasting value is development of the ambition to become self-reliant, an eagerness to make one's own way, and a desire for the better things of life on the part of these hitherto indigent families whose resettlement has thus been made possible.

TYPICAL HOMES, SHOWING NEED OF REHABILITATION



Five Tribes, Oklahoma



Carson Agency, Nevada



Sells, Arizona



Sac and Fox, Iowa



Shoshone, Wyoming

WHERE REHABILITATION HAS ALREADY BEGUN



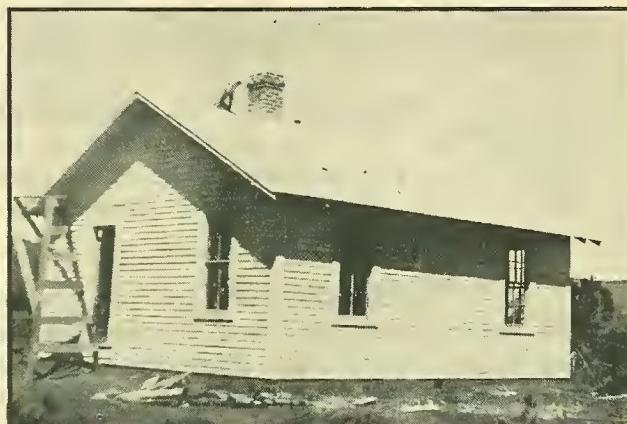
Homes for the old folks at Rocky Boy's Montana



This family has already moved into their new home at Yakima, Washington



A happy family in their new home at Yakima, Washington



The new home of a 75 year old Apache woman at Mescalero, New Mexico



A group of the new homes at Umatilla, Oregon

OUR NEW INDIAN HOMES

By E. J. Diehl, Agricultural Extension Agent

The opportunity for the Uintah and Ouray Indians to prepare themselves for a successful future came when the tribal annuities were received a year ago with the regulations that this money must be spent to help the Indians become self-supporting and to improve their living conditions.

It was revealed that in most instances these regulations would not have been necessary. The things the Indians wanted - comfortable homes, furniture, live stock, farm machinery - are the things they will need to become a progressive self-supporting people.

Not only did the Indians show that they could think and plan progressively, but the better side of their deep nature was well brought out. Their requests showed their deep love for their children and their general concern for the welfare of their less active and old people. Selfishness was nowhere apparent.

Although most of these people wanted good and well-equipped homes for their families--and wanted them very much--the general feeling was for the older people who must be taken care of immediately. They wanted to build them small, but comfortable; homes in which to enjoy their last years. Now that the money was available, no time was lost in preparing to help the old ones. It was generally understood that the building of homes for the younger Indians could be delayed, and in the meantime they could purchase live stock and machinery.

As a result of conferences, it was decided that warm, comfortable, one-roomed houses should be constructed for the older and more inactive people. These would be large enough for they usually lived singly or in pairs. The building of small houses would conserve their money for food and clothing. As these houses had to be easily accessible to the doctors and field nurses at all times of the year, they were not all built on the farms. Some were placed on tribal lands where it was possible to have gardens.

During the time of the construction of homes for the older people, the minds of the young Indians had been pondering over plans for their own homes. They did not ask for the customary one-roomed shacks, but expressed the desire to have well-equipped houses of sizes commensurate with the numbers in their families. The Indian children are taking their places among their white neighbors and the parents do not wish to see the children develop an inferiority complex or to be held back in any way because of any lack of a home.

The result of this type of thinking is the construction of many well-built, well-equipped and well-kept homes - homes that are the envy of many of their white neighbors. A recent contest for the "best homemaker" proved to be a problem for the judges because so many of the homes were beautifully kept. The unusually clean housekeeping was a revelation to visitors.



New Home, Uintah And Ouray, Utah

Good homes are still under construction. At this time more than one hundred homes have either been newly built or remodeled and repaired. With the exception of the one-room dwellings for the old people, the new homes range from two to six rooms. Many have basements. All are substantially constructed and are the customarily approved types of the white people in the Uintah Basin.

As a result of the wise spending of the tribal annuities, the Indians of this reservation now have homes that are good enough for anybody. All are well furnished and so immaculately kept that no owner or housekeeper need hesitate to invite visitors to enter. -The farms are equipped in such a way that if properly cared for, they will afford sufficient gains to keep up these homes. Judging from the types of thinking that has accompanied the investments of funds thus far, the only reasonable conclusion is that the Indians will conserve their present possibilities for the future and will continue to build them up.

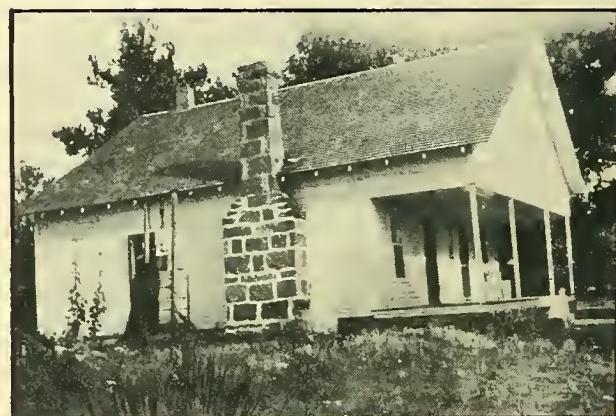
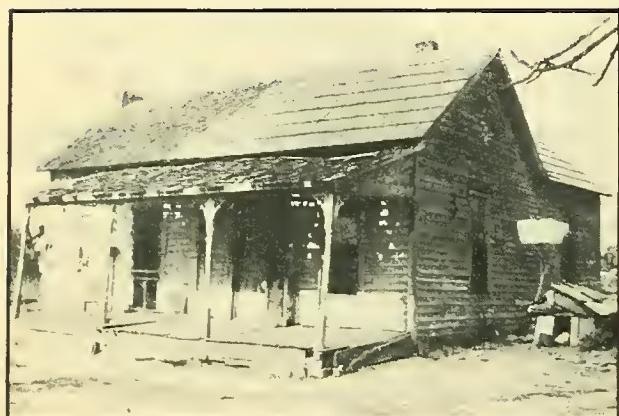
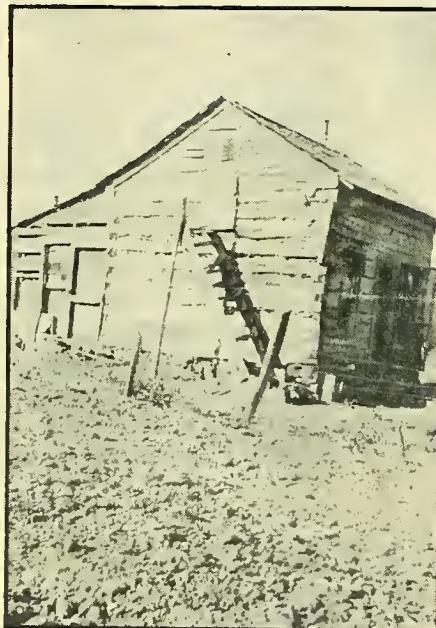
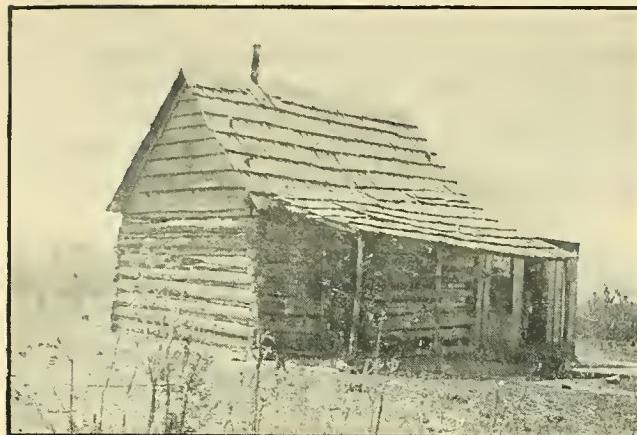
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INDIAN REORGANIZATION NEWS

The Lac du Flambeau and Lac Courte Oreilles Reservations, both of which come under the Great Lakes Agency jurisdiction, voted on their constitutions and by-laws last month. The results of these elections are as follows:

Lac du Flambeau - 182 yes; 51 no
Lac Courte Oreilles - 68 yes; 214 no

BEFORE AND AFTER REHABILITATION AT FIVE TRIBES, OKLAHOMA



BEFORE AND AFTER REHABILITATION



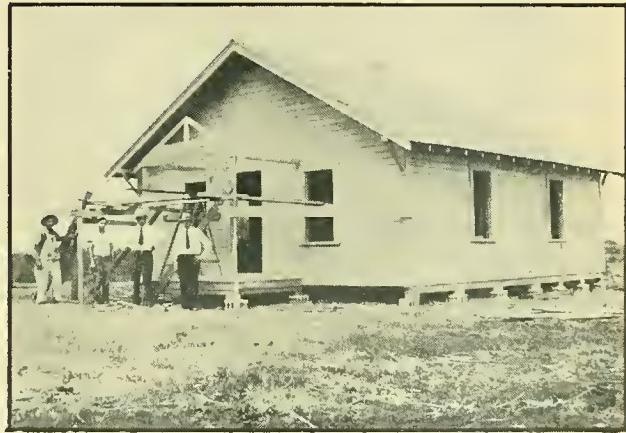
Yakima, Washington



Yakima, Washington



Yakima, Washington



Yakima, Washington



Five Tribes, Oklahoma



Five Tribes, Oklahoma

SMOKE CLOUD FROM FOREST FIRE ON TEA KETTLE MOUNTAIN
FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST, MONTANA



Photo by U. S. Forest Service

FOREST FIRE

A forest fire in the Little Rocky Mountains in Montana, in which two Geological Survey scientists were fatally burned, still is devastating the timber forests in that area. The fire began at the south line of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation and already has burned approximately fifteen hundred acres of timber. According to reports received from the Fort Belknap Agency, the fire is now entirely within the National Forest land.

Three hundred Indians, under the direction of Superintendent Jasper W. Elliott, of the Fort Belknap Reservation, are battling side by side with Emergency Conservation workers, United States Forest Service men, together with the local people of that area, making a total of one thousand. The fire was thought to be under control at two different times, but broke out again in other sections. Supplies have been rushed from the sub-agency at Hays, Montana, from Harlem and from the Indian Emergency Conservation Camps. In connection with the bravery displayed by these Indians in fighting the fire, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, John Collier, made the following statement:

"Crises and disasters have the one merit of calling forth the spirit of cooperation among men. If I say that I am pleased at the courageous way the Indians of the Fort Belknap Reservation are fighting side by side with their white neighbors, it does not mean that I am at all surprised. It is just what I would expect the Indians to do. My hope is, that through instances of this kind, others will learn that the Indians are ready and willing to be good neighbors and sincere cooperators if only given the chance."

* * * *

ANTHROPOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

* Dr. Morris Opler reports an excellent week for the study of the progress of Indian organization on the Mescalero Reservation. He attended the tribal business committee meeting at which the matter of the charter was taken up, and later in the week attended a larger general meeting of Indians where the same subject was presented. He plans to stay on the Mescalero Reservation up to the first part of the month of August.

Dr. Charles Wisdom is working in the Great Lakes Area, out of Ashland, Wisconsin.

Dr. David Rodnick stopped at the Washington Office during the week while enroute to the Potawatomi Agency where he will conduct research work in Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri.

Dr. Scudder Mekeel continued his summer school work at Fort Collins, Colorado.

Mr. Gordon McGregor reported at his headquarters at Billings, Montana, from there he proceeded to various reservations in the northwest where he is to consult with the Credit Agent and Field Agent for Indian Organization.

E. C. W. ON ROCKY BOY'S RESERVATION, MONTANA

By Freal H. McBride, Principal



Logging Activities At Rocky Boy

E.C.W. was started on Rocky Boy's Reservation in July, 1933. The original and constant purpose has been to provide employment for needy Indians. From small beginnings it developed into worthwhile and valuable assistance to many indigent Indians. It has been a constant spur to Indians to accept steady work and to raise their standards of living. Employment was offered to non-wards as well as to reservation Indians. No one was refused the opportunity to work.

The first project was the building of a trail from Beaver Creek to Baldy Mountain and thence over Black Butte. This was the first trail into the Bear Paw Mountains proper. It opened up to Indians and to reservation officials and supervisors, as well as to vacation seekers, a beautiful mountain area which had heretofore been inaccessible except by horseback. The first camp was established on Beaver Creek near the site of the present Beaver Creek Ranger Cabin.

In October, 1933, the work had progressed so that it was necessary to move to the Old Bear Paw Mining Camp. One of the ancient mine buildings was converted into headquarters for personnel, one into a schoolroom and one into a cook house. The Indian workmen lived in tents.

In September, 1934, the work had progressed to such an extent that it became necessary to move the camp to its present location at the sawmill. This camp now has become permanent and is probably one of the best in the Plains area. It is centrally located in a luxuriant forest of aspen, lodge pole pine, ponderosa pine and fir. This mill has furnished and continues to furnish lumber and other timber materials for all E.C.W. and other reservation projects.

Forty miles of truck trails and many additional miles of spur trails and horse and man trails have been constructed by E.C.W. These trails make heretofore inaccessible areas accessible for range supervision, for distribution of salt to stock and for general inspection of timber against forest fires. They make the timber more easily available to Indians for use, both as building materials and as fuel.

E.C.W. has, by furnishing work for heads of families and by concentration of Indians in camps, made possible the establishment of schools and the education of eager Indian children who otherwise would not have been able to attend any school. Their appreciation of these privileges is shown in the earnest countenances of the children and the glowing smiles of the parents when one visits these camps. Schools became a necessity from the first. Neither the shortage of facilities nor the difficulties which accompany the long, sub-zero snowy winters in an almost inaccessible mountain district of northern Montana could deter either the ones in charge or the parents who had children to send. In the fall, after the establishment of the first camp on Beaver Creek, a school was organized and a tent served as a schoolroom.

The children were those of the employed families and at least fifty per cent of them had never had the opportunity of attending any school before. There was perhaps an enrollment of twenty or twenty-five. When the camp was moved to the old Bear Paw mining site the school was moved into one of the rickety mine buildings, and the enrollment had grown to thirty. The E. C. W. pay roll now supported perhaps sixty families and fifty single men. Finally when the camp moved to the sawmill the school went with it.

During the summer of 1934 a temporary one room schoolhouse and temporary quarters for the teacher, consisting of a two room building was built. During the following winter the buildings were duplicated and now there are two schoolrooms and two cottages for teachers. The school is now known as the Sawmill Camp Day School, and has an enrollment of sixty children. The latest development has been the approval of plans for a splendid new permanent school building and teacherage to be built within the next few months.

The Sun Dance Dam, an extraordinary undertaking, is now nearing completion. This edifice dams a branch of Box Elder Creek and will provide a lake of perhaps thirty acres. This storage reservoir will protect the range of Indians living along Sun Dance Creek, Mission Creek and Box Elder Creek during extremely dry years and during the annual droughts which this region has been experiencing during the months of August and September. The lake will also serve as a conservation area for fish and game and as a recreation center for the Indians. It will aid in flood control.



4-H Club Potato Garden

the development of the live stock and particularly of the cattle. Such investigation takes the observer to a cattlemen's heaven, to magnificent mountains, meadows and gorgeous grass filled, flower decked ravines; to dusty branding corrals; through forested trails to clear bubbling springs and bounding, trout filled streams; through cool shade of aspen thickets and up steep pine covered slopes, then down to warmer valley pastures for winter grazing.

This sublime virgin area is a paradise for wild life - elk and deer, and made to order region for fattening cattle. In fact, it is the opinion of the forest ranger in charge that the climatic and geographic conditions and the type of forage and range of this region cannot be excelled anywhere in the United States.

Hence the entire E.C.W. program has been built around the chief industry of the reservation - cattle raising. There are now on this reservation 1300 high grade hereford breeding cows. Yearling steers, weighing from 300 to 850 pounds are shipped annually. For the past three years, these steers have topped the markets in Chicago and South St. Paul. All these remarkable natural resources have been developed and improved for the Rocky Boy Indians by their conscientious superintendent and his assistants. The cattle are owned by individual Indians but are run as a community herd during the summer.

In connection with the stock management, the E.C.W. has fenced the entire reservation boundary

Approximately 50 springs, and as many water-holes and small reservoirs have been developed. These have proven of immense value for watering places for stock and have made much grazing land accessible to stock which previously could not be used because of its great distance from water.

Perhaps the most thrilling experience to the casual visitor is to follow



Old Folks' Homes - Rocky Boy Montana

and has constructed range division fences. This aids in the proper distribution of Indian cattle and the prevention of overgrazing.

Experiments are being carried on with crested wheat grass. These experiments have been so successful that a two acre plot of ground is being used as a source of seed supply for crested wheat seed which will be used to reseed worn out range areas. A lookout house for the detection of forest fires has been erected on the top of Centennial Mountain and an automobile trail built to it. Two ranger cabins, one on Beaver Creek and one on Sandy Creek have been erected. These are connected by telephone to important points on the reservation. They are of untold benefit for fire detection and control and for stock management.

The Federal Emergency Relief Administration constructed groups of houses at various centers on the reservation. These well-built homes have been provided with simple furnishings and facilities for necessary sanitation. These are given to old rationers who are destitute and homeless and the E.C.W. has planned, laid out, leveled and provided the irrigation system for subsistence gardens adjoining these small homesteads.

The Sawmill Camp has shown outstanding growth. In the beginning there were no houses and no money to build them. The workmen dug out the snow from a snow bank and put up a tent which served as a makeshift sleeping quarters during the first strenuous winter in the forest. Everyone slept on the floor as there were no beds. Often six or eight persons lived in one tent. There was absolutely no equipment for sanitation. From such a miserable and straggling beginning, it has grown through the appreciation of the Indians for the work and the determination and vision of those in charge, to a picturesque mountain camp in a lovely grove of young aspen trees.

The visitor is reminded, as he looks upon it from the slope above, of a far northwestern lumber camp of legendary fame. The rising azure blue smoke of summer evening camp fires around the cozy cottages of numerous Indian families make a picture worthy of any artist's effort. The camp now contains thirty cottages of wood construction. These are simply furnished with the necessities. The furnishings have all been bought by the Indians themselves from their salaries. The camp now has a large barrack caring for 40 single men and an adequate bathhouse and mess hall. Sanitary provisions have been made and though much more will be done in the future the progress thus far has been inspiring and comparatively sensational.

Most of the Indians who comprise the population of this camp are wards and non-wards who have not taken up land selections and who, were it not for the opportunity of this camp, would be homeless and dependent upon the charity of nearby towns along the highways of northern Montana. Many of these, through their experiences in camp, have come to realize the advantages of life on a reservation and are now applying for admission to the tribe and desire to settle new lands of the reservation. This rehabilitation of transients, alone, is a valuable social service scheme. Along with trail building, much of the forest was cleaned of brush and thus lessening the danger of fire and improving the appearance of the forest.

As a result of E.C.W. employment, many Indians have made frequent and voluntary payments on reimbursable debts. Many have been able to furnish their homes, buy themselves teams and wagons and to improve the health conditions of their families. Opportunity has been given to learn trades and skills. A number have developed into expert machine operators, mechanics and truck drivers. Instruction has been given in first aid and in general health principles. All have raised their standards of living to some extent, some perhaps as much as 100 per cent. The E.C.W. program has substituted work in place of direct relief. A conspicuous observation is that very little liquor has been used by the Indians in those camps. Without doubt the morale of these people has arisen notably.

Since all the E.C.W. has been done on the reservation, the advantages to the Indians have been one hundred-fold. The development of the natural resources of the reservation has not only helped economically but has made the reservation a more delightful place to live. The sawmill has made lumber and other materials more readily available to the tribe. The work program has provided opportunity for steady work during a crushing period of depression. The children have been given opportunity for education through the establishment of schools. All, even the old, have been given the chance to work rather than accept relief. Living conditions and health have been improved and the natural beauties of a superb mountain territory have been made more approachable to our Indian friends.



A Garden On The Rocky Boy's Reservation, Montana

DROUGHT IN MONTANA

By Gerard Beeckman
Editorial Assistant to the Commissioner

The Indians of the Montana area are experiencing intense suffering as a result of the devastating drought and heat. Their range is gone - their crops utter failures. From the Red River, west to the Rockies, the destruction has been complete. The average Indian is perhaps harder hit because his crop or herd of cattle is usually just large enough to take care of him and his family for one season.

In the early spring things looked good. They learned to plant truck gardens in addition to their regular crops. Like the crops, the truck gardens are a total loss - burned brown, or in some cases, never got a start.

The Indians come in long silent lines to the superintendents' offices asking for their next week's rations in advance and asking what word has come from Washington - pleading for food - for feed - for work or for water.

The normal activities of government - State and Federal, are never large enough to cope with such a drought covering such a wide area. Millions of acres are affected and the relief agencies have been unable to meet the situation successfully.

Emergency Conservation Work and W.P.A. are supplying a great amount of relief work but there is not enough to go around and what work there is, is being apportioned and at best is but a temporary expediency. Thousands of Indians are on weekly rations of flour and dried beans. This constitutes their whole menu. At the Fort Belknap Reservation at Harlem, enough food is on hand to last thirty days. Two hundred families are being fed in this manner at this time. This number will increase before fall. At Fort Peck Agency at Poplar, a similar situation exists and likewise at the Blackfeet and Crow Reservations.

But the present situation is not of as much concern to the Indian as is the coming fall and winter. With the range gone, there is no feed for their cattle for the winter, which everyone admits will be a long and hard one. Thousands of cattle have been sold and at a loss. Thousands of tons of hay will have to be imported to take care of the foundation herds.

Where they will get water is another problem. For years the Missouri River, meandering through the huge Fort Peck, Fort Belknap Reservations and other sections of the Indian country, has been their water supply. Today it has become so polluted, that it is absolutely unsafe for man or beast. Hundreds of small streams have disappeared, leaving parched beds. The answer to the problem has been in wells. Funds have been allocated for this purpose - but not large or fast enough.

For example, at the Fort Peck Reservation there are now about twenty wells to supply about 3,000 Indians and thousands of head of cattle. Many families are miles away from the nearest well. It will take nearly sixty more wells to meet the present demand. Dams and storage lakes are being constructed as relief projects but without water they are useless. Funds are being urged for more wells.

The same water shortage is found at Blackfeet, Fort Belknap and Crow, and something must be done and done immediately. Three hundred families at Crow are being taken care of but it cannot last forever. Food, feed and clothing are needed.

Showing How High Wheat Should Grow - North Dakota



Resettlement Administration Photo by Rothstein

AN OLD-TIMER SPEAKS

Remarks Made By Joseph Allard Who Was Present At The Staff Conference Which Was Held At Flathead Agency On June 15, 1936.

I have been on this reservation since 1883. I am an old-timer, however, I was not born here. It has changed from a wild range to a highly cultivated country. We are Indians, but still we are not. We were born and raised as Indians, but when the reservation was opened to homesteading, we started to become like whites, which is very different to the old style of Indians.

My father rode often to the Black Hills in Dakota, with cattle from this reservation. Very many years ago, these cattle belonged to one T. J. DeMers. He was a relative of the Arlee and Hot Springs DeMers of today, and no doubt you know some of them. About that time, there is the story of the first buffalo that was ever paid for. One night while driving a herd of cattle, it was noticed that an old buffalo bull was leading the cattle. When they tried to turn him away from the herd, he was very gentle and turned easily. One noon a wagon stopped where the buffalo was and someone shot him. Two hundred dollars was collected from the person who shot this buffalo, and this was the first time a buffalo was paid for.

In 1884, the DeMers family were going to bring in some buffalo for further use on the range, but found that the buffalo were sadly depleted then. About two years later, my father bought ten head of buffalo for more than \$2,000. I received a share of these and we raised a large herd, selling them until there was only one left. We kept one buffalo bull and our stock was a cross between cattle and buffalo, and at that time called "cattlo."

The reason for buffalo being in this country happened when a buck from this reservation went to another reservation. He embarrassed and angered his own tribe, so to make peace with them, he brought back buffalo for the tribe. Since that time, and up until the time all buffalo were out of the country, these animals were used and crossed with cattle.

Buffalo are a gentle and peaceful animal. At any rate they always appeared to be that way to me. They are brave - that is, they will not run from other animals, or get afraid but they merely stand and usually the other animal will become afraid or in some cases, the buffalo will fight. One buffalo was bought at Garrison and fought all the way from there to Ravalli. He got away from them at Ravalli and they never saw him again for a year. It finally took them a week to get the animal to Round Butte with the rest of the herd.

You might be interested in knowing the names of the older stockmen at that time. Up at Jocko there were not many stockmen. The Sisters at St. Ignatius, and one fellow who stayed there had big herds of cattle. The McDonalds had a large herd of cattle and also large cattle. I have found that the cattle were larger at that time than they are now. They never used to feed cattle in the winter like the farmers and ranchers do now. They may have fed smaller animals, but not full-grown cattle.

One time I went across the river between what is known as Horseshoe Bend and Buffalo Bridge. I was gathering hogs on the open range. There was a foot and a half of snow on the ground and holes were dug out clear to the ground. Great big holes were dug where the hogs had been feeding. This may sound like a far-fetched fish story, but it is true. However, the snow had been on the ground for only a day or so!

Beyond the McDonald's there was the Allard ranch. At the time of my father's death, we sold 3600 head of cattle. Near Mud Creek were the Pablo and Dupuis ranches. The man owning it was the father of Victor and Caville Dupuis whom you might have known. Alexander Clairmont, Sam's grandfather was the only man who went into the hog business extensively at that time.

Mr. Jones, one of the men who had a large herd of buffalo at one time, mixed buffalo and Texas cattle, and I never saw such an awful looking animal. The herd of buffalo in the National Bison Range just west of St. Ignatius, Montana, and very near this agency, is the remainder of the original buffalo herd of Allards. At one time, a buffalo was worth from \$200 to \$250 but later dropped to about the price of beef, which is \$30.00 a head.

The buffalo is not a curious animal. If you do anything to try to attract its attention, it would probably just stand there and let you do it for hours at a time. It pays little or no attention to such things. They have large eyes and see very well. They are finely scented, however.

* * * * *

NOTICE

In the July 15 issue of INDIANS AT WORK, we failed to give credit to the Christian Science Monitor for the special permission which they gave us to reprint the Laguna Corn Grinding Song sung by Floating Cloud to TA-DE-Win.

THREE MEN ARE KILLED

During the month of June, 1936, three men were killed in accidents on our various Indian reservations. "Accidents do not happen; they are caused."

The above statement may seem too inclusive, but nevertheless it remains a fact that accidents do not just happen, they are caused. A child trips and falls into a tub of hot water and is terribly burned. A young man loses an eye caused by a chip of steel breaking off a cold chisel he is using. A young girl sneaks into the kitchen to play with the bread cutter and has her finger cut off. These accidents and many, many more have happened in the Indian Service. The total number for any one year, if we had an accurate record of such, would horrify us. As far as is known the Indian Service has not attempted any compilation of the accidents throughout all the reservations.

A person in the Indian Service when asked how many accidents occurred in an Indian school during the year replied: "Oh, four or five." Alas, the hospital records of just one school for the calendar year of 1935, showed 110 accidents necessitating 871 days in the hospital. With the school enrollment of 525, it is rather startling to learn one out of every five students in that school spent approximately eight days in the hospital.

President Roosevelt in a letter to Secretary Ickes, requested the preparation of programs of health and safety for the National Park Service, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Secretary Ickes in Order No. 1059, designated Mr. Frank L. Ahern, National Park Service Chairman, George O. Sanford, Bureau of Reclamation and Paul L. Fickinger, Bureau of Indian Affairs, to serve as members of a committee to prepare these programs of health and safety together with the estimate of the cost involved.

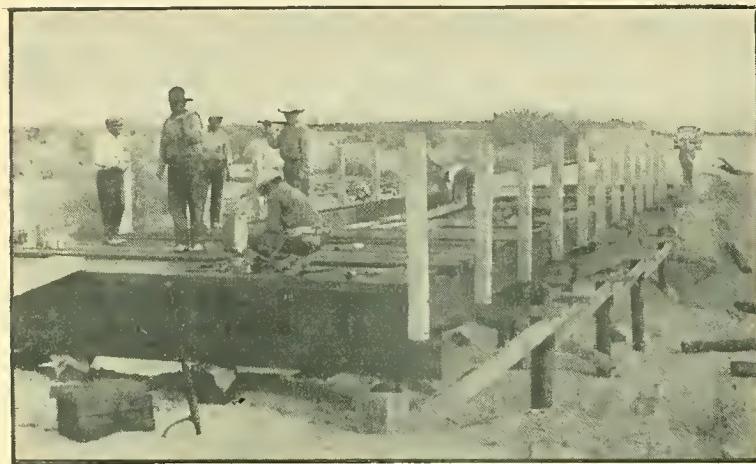
The success or failure of accident prevention work is dependent, in major part, upon the attitude of the superintendent. Unless he is convinced of the real value of an organized safety program among his employees and takes an active leadership in it, effective results will not be produced, no matter how well planned or carried out the program may be. The elimination of careless practices demand a change of mental attitude on the part of every employee. An indication of this change must emanate from the superintendent.

Experience has demonstrated that there is one fundamental principle underlying all effective accident prevention activities, namely that safety is an integral part of good operating practice. A reduction of accidents is not accomplished by the discharge of careless men, necessitating the employment of new untrained men who may be equally careless. It is dependent upon the ability of the organization to obtain the proper spirit of cooperation from its existing force.

Although a program of safeguarding and physical improvement is essential, the safety problem is largely one of education and the development of definite and continued interest among the employees. Accidents are no respectors of reservations, schools, superintendents, family or individuals. They threaten every home, every work place and every road. Let us start now to learn the a. b. c.'s of safety. Always be careful!

THE SOUTHWEST INDIANS BUILD BRIDGES

By L. P. Towle - Assistant to the District Road Engineer



Indians At Work On San Carlos Bridge

a cloudburst raged suddenly through its treacherous course. Always it has been an eyesore to the landscape and a detriment to economic development.

But now, as we watch, Nature's plan is being thwarted by the purpose and the genius of man. For within the wash is a great bustle of activity as San Carlos Apaches labor to complete the bridge that is to span this barrier. With giant strides the work goes forward. Mighty blows of a two-ton hammer drive to bed rock an average of eight piling per day. These are capped and braced with sturdy timbers, stringers are placed, laminated flooring is layed, felloe guard and hand rail are constructed.

The Indians are building a bridge and the structure itself will prove that they are doing a wonderful job. Under the most competent supervision the work is splendidly organized, the spirit is commendable and the accomplishments are truly laudable.

As we view the precision of execution, it seems that these Indians have summoned to command all the artistry of their ageless traditions, so that they might weave into the symmetry of this permanent structure, a lasting picture of Indian workmanship, their contribution to the completion of the beauty of San Carlos.

Surely, "a thing of beauty is a joy forever."

We are standing in the depth of the great wash that bars the approach to beautiful San Carlos. Only time and the relentless force of nature could have created a barrier of such magnitude that it seems to almost rend asunder the important landmarks of the reservation.

For years this barrier has stood, a potential menace to the population, a real danger at those intervals when the flood tide of

By the time these lines appear, the bridge will long since have been completed. It is but one of many bridges being built throughout the southwest in connection with the road program now going forward under the highly competent and sympathetic direction of District Road Engineer, Dewey J. Rierdon.

There is a bridge to fit the requirements of every individual situation. Designing Engineer, Fred M. Hartford has seen to that. The accompanying photographs are typical examples of the approved type of timber structure. There are other types and designs now built and in place on the Papago, at Fort Apache, and at numerous other agencies. As we inspect these splendid bridges, we are impressed not alone by their handsome exterior, but by their intrinsic strength, their sturdy construction, defying time and the ravages of nature, providing dependable facilities for transportation on into the years of the future.

And it is among the Indians themselves that one finds the true realization of these benefits, not as a present solution of labor necessities but as a contribution to future economic stability.

Coincident with the splendid program of planned land use and soil conservation which is reclaiming for these Indians a means of livelihood, the road program is cooperating to provide those vitally essential arteries of transportation, to insure the full benefits of economic independence.

Many a theme has been written about the road and its place in the affairs of men. Perhaps some day a brilliant scribe will dip his pen in the fountain of history and relate how the coming of the road and the building of the bridge contributed so materially to the economic welfare of a struggling race in the great southwest.



New Bridge Across Wepo Wash - Hopi

TRUE INDIAN STORY OF THE ASSINIBOINE TRIBE

By Otto J. Cantrell, Assistant Leader

Fort Peck Reservation, Montana

Over one hundred years ago a group of Assiniboine Indians were out camping on the old hunting ground getting a winter supply of buffalo meat and other wild game. The women were digging wild turnips and drying them as that was one of the winter provisions.

One family left the camps several miles trying to locate a herd of buffalo. Those days there were very few horses among the Indian tribes, so dogs were used in moving their camps. Several days later this family returned to the tribe. That afternoon, the chief and several other old men and this party who had returned from his scouting trip, had a meeting in the chief's wigwam and talked about the location of buffaloes. This took all afternoon.

Just before the meeting was over, one of the old women returned from digging turnips. She sat down in front of her wigwam to rest and then she heard her dog come home to her seven pups and say, "I love my children dearly; what am I going to do to save them," repeating this twice in the Indian language. The old woman ran to the chief's wigwam and told him what she heard. The old men laughed when she told about the dog talking. She took her dog and went to the medicine man and told him about it.

He filled his pipe of peace and offered it to the Gospel of the four winds and said, "In the name of the four winds, this dog has talked about how she could save her children. Why not let her tell us the reason for her trying to save her children, when no one will harm them in this camp."

The dog interrupted him by saying, "The enemies are coming near." After hearing what was said, the medicine man told her it would be a good idea to move early the next morning, but the old woman went back and took what she needed and her dog with seven pups and went up the valley away from the camp because she was afraid the enemies would attack the camps any minute.

She had no more than stopped to rest when she heard gun shots down below. Next morning she had found the camp burned and not a soul alive, except her dog and the seven pups.

The granddaughter of this woman who heard the dog talk is ninety-eight years old and still living west of Wolf Point. Her name is Winu hte ca in Indian better known as Grandman White Head.

BEFORE AND AFTER REHABILITATION



The house and tent in which a family of six formerly lived. Yakima, Washington



The new home in which this family now lives



These two pictures show the former homes of a father and son at Mescalero, New Mexico. The father lived in the board shack, the son in the tent. Their new homes are shown below.



FROM I.E.C.W. REPORTS

Drilling Work at Pipestone (Minnesota) The drilling of four wells was completed. All casings have been capped and will remain so until the pumps are installed. All the wells are better than 4 inches in diameter at the bottom. Three of them end in hard rock. The fourth one ends in gravel. The flow in all four wells is estimated at 60 gallons per minute. Logs of the drilling operations were kept and will be forwarded to Washington.

The work on the fence progressed very nicely this week. However, we are still waiting for the delivery of material. J. W. Balmer, Superintendent.

Water Development at Navajo (Leupp Subdivision) There has been a great deal of water development on our reservation in the past few years. All types of wells, such as artesian, shallow wells and reservoirs have been laid out by the Government engineers.

This is pleasing to many Indians, because it means a great help for the tribe of the enchanted desert. For many years, they had to scratch around for water in drying river beds. Now, all they have to do is to drive their stock to the well. They don't have to pump water because some of the wells have windmills and water is already in the troughs. Mike Brodie.

Work at United Pueblos (Laguna) 202-L-5: Blasting out rocks, excavating by hand; breaking trail with bulldozer and following with AC cat and scarifier; sloping banks; rocking dips.

131-L-1: Clearing the right-of-way; blasting out stones from right-of-way; cutting and hauling posts for use as supplementary; driving steel posts; stretching wire; tying wire; progress rather slow due to excessive roughness of country in which we are working. All material is being packed in.

146-UP-IM: Placed spider which had been previously broken on #4 mill at Laguna; also replaced spokes and wheel sections. Hooked up mill which is now pumping. Drilled a few feet deeper in Acoma Well #6, and tested well.

202-UP-M: Repaired several places in road from Encinal to Paguate. Riprapping banks and rebuilding culvert. J. V. Tully, Instrumentman.

Trail Construction at Colville (Washington) We made good progress on the trail this week although our caterpillar lost some time due to a breakdown. The parts have been ordered and the "Cat" will be in operation in a short time.

We have approximately four and one-half miles of trail yet to be completed, out of the six and one-half mile project. This project, when completed will connect with the Nine Mile and Lincoln territories, all of which were constructed by our camp. The trail will be approximately thirty miles long.

The right-of-way crew has been doing very nice work as the weather has been most suitable for the burning and clean-up work.

Baseball has been the leading activity of leisure time. A game was won by our two camps last Sunday, the score being nine and four. An enjoyable time was had by all and the permission given us by the E.C.W. personnel for this recreation was appreciated by all the boys very much. Roy Toulou.

Varied Activities at Truxton Canon (Arizona) Our Fire Guard is on the job and reporting every indication of fire. He seems to take a great deal of interest in his work and is on the job all the time. It has been well worth our while and the expenditure of our money to provide this man with a job, for we have had quite a few small fires that would have developed into larger ones had we not had a man on the job looking out for the interests of our commercial forest.

The work on the cattle guards will be completed this coming week. The A-framing is all that is left with the exception of stringing some fence lines and connecting them with the cattle guards. Also, we have to reset gate posts and swing the gates onto them. The resetting of the gate posts takes more of our time than the A-framing.

Horse Trough Spring development is reported as being complete. Mr. Jones, our Senior Foreman, reports that this is a very nice job and that he and his crew are proud of their work. The spring is running a nice stream for this time of the year. We have just come out of our driest season of the year and we have had a small trickle of water all during our development work. Every other year this spring

had completely dried up. Charles F. Barnard.

Fire Fighting at Crow (Montana) An emergency fire camp was erected to combat fires. This camp enabled the fire fighters to reach the fires with a minimum loss of time. Several fires were fought and put out. The latter part of the week saw fairly heavy rains which eliminated most of the fire hazard for the time. It is expected that a few days of warm weather will dry out the vegetation and the fire hazard will again be present. R. Cheagnon.

Work On Reservoir At Northern Navajo Subdivision (New Mexico) On Monday morning, twenty-three teams of horses and three trucks and thirteen hand labor set to work. We are glad to have a big reservoir dam put up in our section of the reservation. We enjoy the work. It is a great help to us for watering our stock.

It saves us a long journey to water our sheep on a hot day. We are learning this good way to make a dam. We sure do like our boss, because he is a jolly and good man. We wish there were more dams and reservoirs up in our part of the reservation. After the day's work, after supper, we have our fun of games, races, singing and talks of manners and on our work from our good boss. Harry Harvey.

Fence Construction at Carson (Nevada) The past week was taken up for the most part in the work of unloading and piling up some 3500 split cedar posts shipped in for our fencing job. The posts when they arrived were quite green and heavy and so we piled them in the open in order for them to season a little before placing them in

the ground. We also received in shipment 400 feet of steel six inch well casing for the new well that is to be drilled soon out on the east range. This work is to be started soon. Roy M. Madsen.

A Well-Kept Camp At Uintah and Ouray (Utah) Our camp is located in a very nice place and is looking better every day. Our acting camp manager has taken a great interest in it and has improved it 100 per cent. Our camp is considered very neat and clean and the boys are all very proud of it and they also take a very great interest in keeping it clean and anyone visiting it never finds anything scattered around the grounds. We are very proud of the appearance of our camp. Glenn Reed, Jr., Foreman.

Spring Development At Blackfeet (Montana) Three small crews are developing the springs at places on the reservation where they are most needed for emergency water. Due to excessive dry spells many of the small creeks are drying up and we may have to do considerable emergency water work during the balance of the summer. J. S. Allen, Senior Project Manager.

Lookout house was completed this week with the exception of lightning protection which has not arrived. Telephone installed and lookout will move in next week. The lumber is very dry, thousands of tourists are riding up and down the park highways and a lookout at this point will help in fire suppression. J. S. Allen, Senior Project Manager.

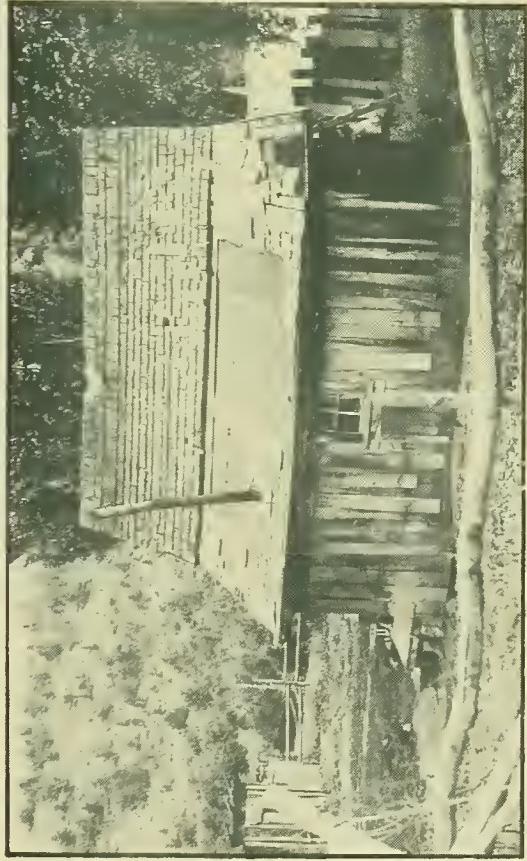
Dam Construction At Cheyenne And Arapaho (Oklahoma) This dam is now finished and every man who worked on it feels like he has a personal in-

terest in the lake. They are all looking forward to the time when the dam is full and stocked with fish. When the dam is full it will cover an area of approximately 15 acres of land with an average depth of about 7 feet. In some spots it will be quite deep. Quite a bit of water is already in the lake and an all year around supply of water is practically assured for any and all stock in this district.

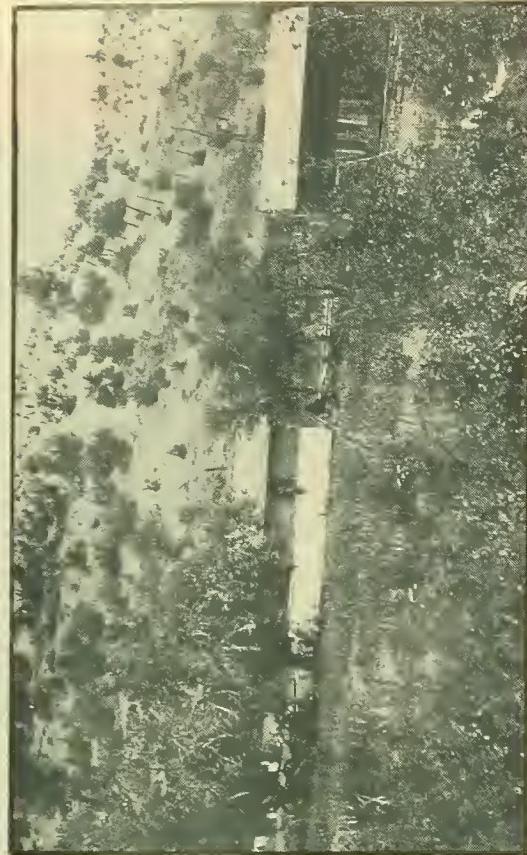
Not only the Indians living in the Colony district are proud of the finished dam, but it is creating quite a bit of interest in the entire surrounding countryside because of the possibility of future fishing ground. Not only financial assistance to needy Indians has been furnished, but needs for the future in the way of stock water and soil erosion control has been assured in the completed job. Oscar Birdshead.

New Project At Consolidated Chippewa (Minnesota) Well, the weather seems to have quite a lot to say this week. It was sure hot here, but there was not an outcry from the men about the heat. No one was prostrated by the intense heat that has gripped the nation. The crews took the heat in stride and kept up their work like a smooth piece of machinery that has been taken care of. The men are all cheerful and happy and in the evenings sit in the shade of the buildings and talk.

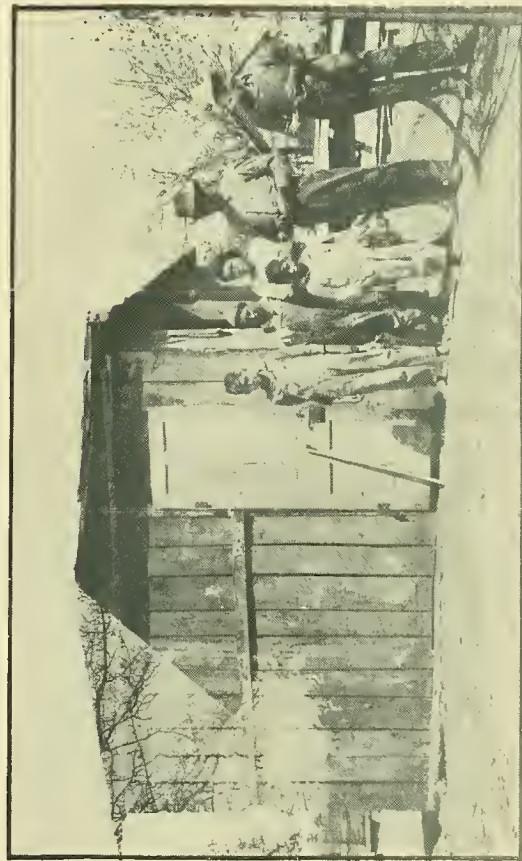
This week we opened up a new project - the Blacklock Trail. This trail is mostly uphill but the soil is part sand and rock but to all indication it seems that it will turn out to be one of the best trails that we have built on the reservation. George H. Aurelio.



This was the dwelling of a seventy year old Indian woman at Warm Springs, Oregon



Here is her new home with a woodshed built from materials taken from the old house



The old home of a Creek Indian and his family at Five Tribes, Oklahoma



A view of their new home

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